

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application or previous response to office action:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A piezo actuator for actuating an injector for an injection system of an internal combustion engine, comprising a cage-shaped holder for spatially fixing a piezo stack and two associated connection pins for electrical contacting of the piezo stack, wherein the cage-shaped holder comprises a top plate, a bottom plate, and a first rib and a second rib, wherein the first and second rib physically support and couple said top and bottom plate to ~~pre-form~~ form said cage-shaped holder, the top plate and the bottom plate each comprise cutouts to receive a single piezo stack inserted into the pre-formed cage-shaped holder ~~and wherein the holder is furthermore designed to receive two associated connection pins.~~

2. (Previously Presented) A piezo actuator according to claim 1, wherein the first rib and the second rib are formed such that each protects an axially running edge of the piezo stack.

3. (Previously Presented) A piezo actuator according to claim 1, wherein the top plate has openings and the bottom plate has clamps for receiving said connection pins.

4. (Previously Presented) A piezo actuator according to claim 2, wherein the edge protecting ribs cover two axially running, opposite edges of the piezo stack.

5. (Previously Presented) A piezo actuator according to claim 1, wherein between the edge protecting rib and the piezo stack there is a gap large enough to allow a potting compound to penetrate during encapsulation.

6-7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Presented) A piezo actuator according to claim 3, wherein the connection pins are fixed in the holder in a form-fit and/or force-fit manner.

9. (Previously Presented) A piezo actuator according to claim 8, wherein the connection pins are extrusion-coated or molded in with the material of the holder.

10. (Previously Presented) A piezo actuator according to claim 1, wherein the holder essentially consists of plastic.

11. (Previously Presented) A piezo actuator according to claim 1, wherein the two connection pins are fixed in the holder in two radial bearings, respectively.

12. (Previously Presented) A piezo actuator according to claim 1, wherein the two connection pins are axially fixed in the holder in respective axial bearings.

13. (Previously Presented) A piezo actuator according to claim 1, wherein the cutout in the first end plate is larger than the cross-sectional area of the piezo stack in order to allow the penetration of potting compound.

14. (Previously Presented) A piezo actuator according to claim 1, wherein the cutout in the second end plate is larger than the cross-sectional area of the piezo stack in order to allow the penetration of potting compound.

15. (Previously Presented) A piezo actuator according to claim 1, wherein the holder with the inserted piezo stack and the inserted connection pins is encapsulated with a potting compound.

16. (Withdrawn) A production method for a piezo actuator comprising the following steps:

- Inserting a piezo stack and two connection pins in an assembly mount,

- Establishing an electrical connection between the two connection pins and the piezo stack while the piezo stack and the connection pins are inserted in the assembly mount, and

- accommodating only a single piezo stack and the two associated connection pins by the assembly mount.

17. (Withdrawn) A production method as claimed in claim 16, comprising the following step:

- Encapsulating the assembly mount with the inserted piezo stack and the inserted connection pins with a cure-hardening potting compound.

18. (Withdrawn) A production method as claimed in claim 17, comprising the following steps:

- Inserting the assembly mount with the inserted piezo stack and the inserted connection pins in a mold and then
- Encapsulating the assembly mount with the potting compound in the mold.

19. (Withdrawn) A production method as claimed in claim 18, comprising the following steps:

- Winding the assembly mount with the inserted piezo stack and the inserted connection pins with at least one electrically conductive wire,
- Electrically connecting sections of the wire to one of the two connection pins and one of two terminals of the piezo stack,
- Cutting the wire between the contacted wire sections and removing the cut wire sections.

20. (Withdrawn) A production method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the assembly mount has at least one edge guard in order to protect an axially running edge of the piezo stack.

21. (Withdrawn) A production method as claimed in claim 15, wherein the potting compound is silicone.